



Testimony in Support of House Bill 5190
AN ACT CONCERNING TESTING FOR HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS

To the distinguished members of the Public Health Committee:

On behalf of the City of New Haven, I respectfully submit the following testimony in support of H.B. 5190, *An Act Concerning Testing for Human Immunodeficiency Virus*.

The proposed bill is important to halting HIV infections in Connecticut and promoting public health in the state. In 2018, then Connecticut Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Raul Pino named six recommendations to eliminate the HIV epidemic in the state, including offering routine HIV testing. Today, H.B. 5190 offers the opportunity to make that recommendation a reality, and to follow the states that have already implemented routine HIV testing.

By implementing routine HIV testing, Connecticut HIV cases may be caught earlier, preventing the disease's advancement and improving health outcomes for patients. Further, providing testing in emergency departments ensures testing is accessible for those who receive their primary care in those departments. This, in turn, makes healthcare more equitable. Finally, testing regularly reduces the stigma associated with HIV testing, so that more individuals will seek diagnosis or treatment who do not currently. If everyone received testing, after all, such stigma would dramatically decrease.

I urge you to vote in favor of H.B. 5190, a bill that is critical to ending the HIV epidemic in Connecticut. For four decades, the disease has killed tens of thousands of Connecticut's people, and H.B. 5190 is a step towards preventing such deaths in the future. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Alvarez
Director of Legislative Affairs
City of New Haven